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Control: 9620
Rec'd: June 19, 1954 5:28 a.m.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
JUN 19 1954
file

FROM: Guatemala City

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1041, June 18, 9 p.m.

NIACT

Foreign Minister Toriello asked me to call at Palace this evening and received me together with French Minister and British Charge. He asked us inform our governments Guatemala attacked this afternoon by two P-47 planes obviously from Honduras and pointed out this type of plane manufactured in US. He said planes bombed house near Guardia de Honor barracks, machine gunned National Palace, and later attacked port of San Jose.

I interposed that P-47 planes could be found in many countries, even Czechoslovakia and Russia. I then asked if the bombed house did not belong to Colonel Rodolfo Mendoza (EMBTEL 1040, June 18), and when Toriello admitted this was the case, I asked if this were not a strange coincidence. I also stated I had watched planes and saw no machine gunning of Palace. Toriello shrugged this off and read wire from Honduran Foreign Minister giving assurances Honduras would disarm Guatemalan rebels within her borders. Despite this assurance Toriello declared troops had entered Guatemala and had captured El Florido 15 kilometers inside border. He said Guatemala would not resist in order to prove aggression, and added he had sent telegram to Security Council at 6:50 tonight asking it to take up case of aggression against Guatemala.

After he had finished, I told him I was somewhat concerned about safety US citizens. He replied government would provide every protection but could not protect them from bombs. I pointed out two American citizens had been arrested today on orders Communist deputy Victor Manuel Gutierrez and asked if he were police officer (EMBTEL 1034, June 18). Toriello expressed surprise and said if this were case he was very sorry.

PEURIFOY

EOC:JG/12

NOTE: Passed Army, Navy, Air, OSD 6/19/54, 8 a.m. RRC.

Mr. Fisher (MID) notified 6-19-54, 7:15 a.m., EMB(CWO)

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